



THE SCOTTISH OFFICE

Department of Health

COMMON SERVICES AGENCY

RECEIVED

18 JUL 1997

FILE NO

REFERRED TO

ACTION TAKEN

DW

17/7

NHS
MEL(1997)41

NHS Management Executive
St. Andrew's House
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
16th July 1997
Telephone 0131-244
Fax 0131-244 2683

Dear Colleague

GUIDANCE NOTES ON THE PROCESSING, STORAGE AND ISSUE OF BONE MARROW AND BLOOD STEM CELLS

Summary

1. The attached Guidance sets out the principles for the processing, storage and issue of bone marrow and blood stem cells to reduce the risks of infection.

Action

2. Chief Executives are asked to ensure that the principles laid down in the guidelines are followed by professionals responsible for these activities within their Trusts. Consultant Haematologists are asked to follow the guidelines and co-operate with Consultant Microbiologists and others as appropriate.

3. It should be noted that these are best practice guidelines which are not in all cases intended to be interpreted rigidly, at least during the initial upgrading of facilities. Any practitioner seeking clarity on their interpretation should contact Professor Ian Franklin (see Enquires Box).

Background

4. An incident occurred in 1995 where several patients at a single centre developed Hepatitis B within months of receiving autologous bone marrow transplantation. Investigations strongly suggested and epidemiological studies indicated that transmission between the individual donations had occurred during storage in the same liquid nitrogen tank.

5. Following this, the Department of Health in England set up an Expert Advisory Group to develop a policy for the processing, storage and issue of bone marrow, with particular emphasis on good manufacturing practice and good laboratory practice.

Addressees

For action:
Chief Executives,
NHS Trusts

General Manager,
Common Services Agency

For Information:

General Managers,
Health Boards

General Manager,
State Hospitals Board for Scotland

Executive Director, SCPMDE

General Manager,
Health Education Board for Scotland

Enquiries to:

Dr Aileen Keel
Scottish Office Department of Health
Room 362
St Andrew's House
EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

Tel: 0131-244 2799
Fax: 0131-244 2069

or

Dr Franklin
Director and Professor of Transfusion
Medicine
Glasgow Royal Infirmary
Castle Street
Glasgow
C4 0SF

Tel: 0141 552 3535

Further Copies:

Raymond Murray
Scottish Office Department of Health
Room 278
SAH

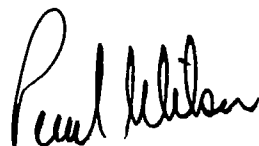
Tel: 0131 244 4049
Fax: 0131 244 3487

* AVAILABLE TO LOOK AT FROM
SD SCOTLAND LIBRARY
OR COPIES FROM RAYMOND MURRAY.

SCOTTISH HEALTH SERVICE COMMON SERVICES AGENCY TRINITY LINK SCOTLAND LIBRARY	
SEARCHED	REF
INDEXED	REF
REF ID: 100470	
Date	Price

6. The general principles set out in the attached document should be followed not only in respect of bone marrow and blood stem cells, but also those dealing with other cryopreserved tissue and cells.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P'.

PAUL WILSON
Director of Trusts